

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I had the pleasure last month of visiting a Tacoma kindergarten classroom taking part in the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) pilot. Along with our partners at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and others, I had the opportunity to watch the children in the classroom, then meet with the teacher, the principal, the superintendent and the district assessment coordinator to learn more about how the pilot was working for them.



It was exciting to hear the teacher talk about how, thanks to WaKIDS, she had more specific information on the children in her classroom than ever before, and that was helping her better meet children's needs as they begin their K-12 experience. This school was using the Pearson Work Sampling System, one of three tools being used by different teachers in the 120 WaKIDS pilot classrooms around the state.

What continues to stand out in the WaKIDS pilot is how important it is that everyone is at the table as equal partners: families, teachers and, when applicable, early care and education professionals. Each part of the child's experience has information to share in supporting a smooth transition and school success.

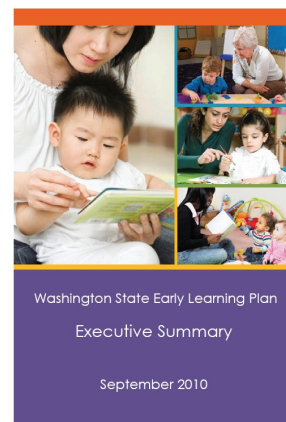
The WaKIDS report is due on Jan. 15 to the Governor and Legislature. In the meantime, please visit www.del.wa.gov/wakids to learn more about this work.

—Bette Hyde, Director

Hot off the press: ELP executive summary

Would you like a copy of the 24-page Early Learning Plan executive summary? Please e-mail communications@del.wa.gov. This publication was printed with a generous in-kind donation from Boeing.

The Early Learning Plan is our state's roadmap for building an early learning system. DEL, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and Thrive by Five Washington led the development of the plan. You can find the full Early Learning Plan online at www.del.wa.gov/plan.



Benchmarks update

A group of individuals representing diverse communities around our state met for the first time in October to begin the process of reviewing and updating the *Washington State Early Learning Development Benchmarks*.

The *Benchmarks* were created in 2005, and within the document is a recommendation that they be reviewed every five years.

DEL is partnering with OSPI and Thrive by Five Washington to convene this workgroup. Some workgroup members were designated by the state's ethnic commissions. Members include representatives from Tribal Nations, early care and education professionals, the Washington State Migrant Council and many others.

The purpose of this workgroup is to review the *Benchmarks*, and provide recommendations on updating the document to ensure it is up-to-date, culturally appropriate and links to our K-12 academic learning standards.

The October meeting was facilitated by the National Equity Project, with support from Thrive and the Kellogg Foundation. The next meeting will take place in December.

During this review process, we do not have any more hard copies of the *Benchmarks*, but the document can be found online at www.del.wa.gov/development/benchmarks/.

Hard copies of *An Introduction for Parents to the Washington State Early Learning and Development Benchmarks* are available by e-mailing communications@del.wa.gov

Child Profile materials added to WithinReach

Did you know that Child Profile materials have been added to the Within Reach Parent Help 123 site?

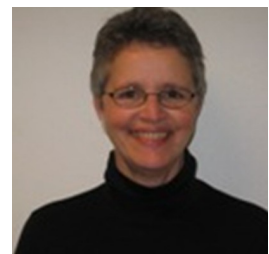
CHILD Profile materials give parents age-specific information about growth, development, safety, nutrition, and other parenting issues. The materials include reminders for well-child checkups and immunizations. Parents get the materials from the time their child is born until their child's sixth birthday.

This partnership is one more way to help parents/caregivers locate materials or sign up to receive mailings. Go to:

www.parenthelp123.org/families/child-development

DEL names Assistant SW Service Area Manager

We at DEL are excited to welcome Lzady Culver back to our agency! Lzady has accepted the Assistant Service Area Manager (ASAM) position for DEL's Southwest Service Area effective Nov. 1. The Southwest Service Area covers 13 counties from Pierce County to Clark County and the Cascades to the coast. The position became open when Mary Kay Quinlan became the Southwest Service Area Manager.



Lzady previously worked at DEL as a licensing supervisor and licenser, and brings a wealth of experience and skills to this position. Most recently, she was a child care program specialist for Head Start Region X. Lzady also worked with Child Care Resource & Referral, Head Start, and was a licensed family home child care provider.

New home visiting web content available

Exciting work is going on now around home visiting and you can now find out more online.

Using a \$1.3 million federal grant, DEL is working with the state Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), and the Council for Children and Families (CCF) to develop an evidence-based home visiting system.

Existing evidence-based programs have the capacity to serve an estimated 2 percent of eligible families who would choose to participate.

Additionally, DEL is partnering with Thrive by Five Washington around a state home visiting account established by the 2010 Legislature. Proposals were due Oct. 22 and awards will be announced in December.

Check out the new web content at: www.del.wa.gov/development/visiting/



School's Out Washington develops school-age core competencies

All licensed child care providers should have received a copy of the *Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals* in the mail last month. You can find it online at

www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/development/core.aspx

A companion school-age document is close to completion as well!

School's Out Washington developed this professional development resource for school-age professionals who specialize in the care and education of children in kindergarten through high school. In addition to the eight content areas covered in the early care version, there are two additional areas: "Cultural Competency and Responsiveness" and "Youth Empowerment."

Fingerprint process improvements coming

DEL has contracted with an outside company to begin electronically scanning fingerprints for licensed child care applicants in early 2011. The fingerprint process will take **less than one week** to complete once this new system is in place.

Be on the lookout for more details about this exciting development on our website.



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Congratulations to new ELAC co-chairs

The Early Learning Advisory Council held a special meeting on Oct. 14 to elect new co-chairs. RCW 43.215.090 directs ELAC to elect two co-chairs (one from state government and one representing a non-state government organization) to serve two-year terms.

DEL Director Bette Hyde nominated Dr. Maxine Hayes from the Department of Health. Sue Winn nominated herself, as a child care provider for 32 years and a strong child care advocate. Both nominations were accepted and unanimously approved. Congratulations! Thank you also to the outgoing co-chairs, Jada Rupley and Lorena Lowell, for their hard work and leadership over the past two years.

The next ELAC meeting will be Dec. 13 at the Lacey Community Center.

Learn more about ELAC at

www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/

If you have five minutes...

Read the October 26 Seattle Times piece "Gregoire announces steps to help small businesses" to get a sense of opportunities that might be available to business owners.

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/business/technology/2013265091_smallbiz27.html



Immunization update from our partners at DOH

Immunization has proven to be the most effective way to control the spread of diseases that can be prevented. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) works with stakeholders in early childhood, child care facilities, and schools, as well as health care providers and families to:

- Prevent vaccine-preventable diseases in children, adolescents, and adults.
- Promote healthy families and increase use of preventive health care for children and adolescents.
- Provide vaccines at no cost to providers for all children under age 19 in Washington.

Learn more about vaccine safety, diseases that vaccines prevent, immunizations for different ages and populations, vaccine distribution, and requirements for children attending child care, preschool, and school at www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize. For questions, e-mail a nurse: immunenurses@doh.wa.gov. You also can sign up for DOH's immunization e-mail listserv to get important updates: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=WA-IMMUNIZATION-INFO>.

CHILD Profile (www.childprofile.org) is our state's health promotion and immunization registry system, which helps parents and providers work together to make good health care decisions for children. The Health Promotion part of CHILD Profile sends age-specific information to parents of children from birth to six years in our state. The Immunization Registry part of CHILD Profile is a computer system that health care providers around our state use to record and keep track of the immunizations they give to patients. The Registry helps providers make sure children (and others) get the right vaccines at the right times.

